

wings in an effort to tear them off. Time after time while we watched, the moth was dragged from the hold without the desired result, when it was immediately taken up and wedged in some other place. Once it slipped and began to fall, but the quick-footed bird went after it and caught it in its bill. Only a small measure of success was achieved when, alarmed by an increasing number of spectators, the bird suddenly took up its booty and flew off.

A young Magpie would have held the insect down in its foot while pulling it to pieces. The procedure followed by this young Butcher-bird appeared to be in line with the larder-stocking habit inherent in its kind.

—W. H. LOARING, Bickley.

Pallid Cuckoo Report, 1950.—Many voluntary observers have co-operated during 1950 in the survey of first calling dates of the Pallid Cuckoo.* The first date quoted for each locality during 1950 was as follows:—

April	July
10—South Perth	3—West Pongelly
12—Mogumber	6—Cookernup
16—South Bunbury (?)	9—Pintharuka
22—Tenindewa (seen only)	9—Wagerup (Harvey)
23—Bunbury	10—Harvey
25—Bejoording (?)	11—Bayswater
26—Wilray (seen only).	12—Nedlands
May	16—Bunbury (other observer)
13—Thomsons Brook (Donnybrook)	17—Buckingham (Collie)
15—Malda Vale (seen only)	18—Dunsborough
25—Mount Kokeby	22—Redmond
28—South Coogee	27—Pinjarra
June	August
6—Wickepin (seen only)	4—Shotts (Collie)
17—Malda Vale	6—East Guildford
24—Donnybrook	
26—Bassendean	

It will be noticed that several early records are either uncertain, or based on sighting only. The very early dates quoted for South Perth and Mogumber are very interesting—there was an inrush of tropical maritime (*Tm*) air on April 10, and this might perhaps partly explain the early call of the bird, because of the greatly increased humidity brought by this type of air. On the other hand, there was an outstanding inrush of *Tm* air on May 9 and 10, and yet the only call record in that period dates from May 13, at Thomsons Brook near Donnybrook.

It might be desirable to observe all instances of Pallid Cuckoo calls during 1951, and not the first calls only, in order to find out whether any weather situation has any effect on the bird.

—J. GENTILLI, Nedlands.

*The 1949 report appeared in the *W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, 1950, p. 59.

Blue-breasted Wrens at Mosman Park.—In the *W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, 1950, p. 108, Mr. W. H. Loaring has presented some interesting data on the extending of the recorded range of the Blue-breasted Wren (*Malurus pulcherrimus*). By 1950 its presence had been established from the mouth of the Murchison River to as far south as Scarborough.

Now, in May 1951, it inhabits the scrub-covered sand dunes near the Cable Station, Mosman Park. Possibly it has been there many years, but it is my first personal encounter with any kind of wren in the Mosman district. These birds are not shy. A pair, the male in full plumage, popped out of a dense clump of *Scacvola*, about 10 feet away from us, and with Wagtail fearlessness, remained to look us over. Before they casually skipped into the next clump we had a perfect opportunity for observation. Mr. Loaring has given a very full description of the Blue-breasted Wren and I will simply add that I received the impression that the male was the smaller of the two birds, but this could have been an illusion due to colour differences. Though these were the only birds seen, the air was full of wren call notes, indicating a good population in the neighbourhood.

If this apparent extension of range is due to a general southward movement, it will be interesting to see just how long this very beautiful bird will take to negotiate Fremantle harbour and its surrounding industrial and residential areas without the friendly protection of the dunes.

—(Mrs.) J. LYON, Mosman Park.

Bird Counts From a Motor Car in the South-west.—In October, 1950 a motor drive was made through the South-west. Upon a suggestion by Major H. M. Whittell, of Bridgetown, a count was made of the frequency of the Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*), in order that some idea be gained of its increase since its original introduction into Western Australia in 1896. Certain other species were also counted for comparison, all observations being made from the front seat of the car. The information is tabulated according to the following sections:—

October 16:

- A. Pemberton to Manjimup, 21 miles.
- B. Manjimup to Bridgetown, 23 miles.
- C. Bridgetown to Donnybrook, 37 miles.
- D. Donnybrook to Picton, 21 miles.

October 17:

- E. Picton to Harvey, 27 miles.
- F. Harvey to Pinjarra, 37 miles.
- G. Pinjarra to Armadale, 37 miles.
- Total distance, 203 miles.

Species	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	Total
<i>Dacelo gigas</i>	2	6	4	3	5	9	1	30
<i>Halcyon sanctus</i>	—	—	1	4	2	1	—	8
<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	—	—	1	3	4	1	3	12
<i>Gymnorhina dorsalis</i>	—	4	11	4	3	24	5	51
Total	2	10	17	14	14	35	9	101